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Sunday, 19 Aug 2012

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YOU ARE HERE: [HOME](#) ► [LOCAL CHURCH NEWS](#)**Local Church News - August 2012****SEC Youth at 2012 NYE**

Brittany Myers, member of First Congregational UCC, Birmingham, shares her experience at the 2012 National Youth Event.

When I found out that the National Youth Event was happening this summer, I was so excited to go back; I remembered all the fun I had when I went when I was 12 and 16 years old, and I could not wait to go. Then I found out I was too old to be considered a youth and unable to attend as a chaperone, but luckily a new pilot group called Mentors In Training Team (MITT) was created. MITT is designed for 19- and 20-

year-olds who are making the transition in the church from being youth to adults. MITT was my ticket to the National Youth Event, and I could not have been more thrilled.

While I was there, I helped those who were doing service projects get with their correct groups and on the right bus to their destination. I also had the opportunity to help with the carnival that took place on the last day. In doing these things I was able to meet new people from all over the United States. I had the wonderful opportunity to dance during Communion while four people told stories about fish and loaves. I thoroughly enjoyed every speaker and the band! Each speaker carried a different inspirational message that always left me thinking. The band...awesome! Words cannot express how I much I loved to hear them. I would have to say this past National Youth Event was my favorite. I really enjoyed being a part of the MITT program and meeting new people and forming bonds with them.

Church of the Savior, UCC in Knoxville, TN, has recently become the home for Interfaith Worker Justice of East TN (IWJET). This is one step COS is taking to bring greater focus to their efforts in the area of economic justice. COS has been working with IWJET for quite a while on a variety of issues ranging from supporting immigrant workers seeking to be unionized in a chicken processing plant in Morristown, TN; to standing with local school janitors whose jobs were going to be outsourced; to public actions to

**UCC News****UCC Newsroom**

Headlines from the United Church of Christ

[Extravagant welcome at Massachusetts UCC now showering visitors on mission trips](#)

Weary travelers on mission trips in the Massachusetts area have always been welcome at Wollaston Congregational Church, UCC, in Quincy. But this summer, a stop at the 100-year-old Parish House has been made a lot more welcoming, with the addition of shower facilities.

Southeast Conference FAQ's[Who is the SEC?](#)[Who is the UCC?](#)[How Do I Find a UCC Church?](#)[What Ministries are Available?](#)[Is Training Available?](#)

school janitors whose jobs were going to be outsourced, to public actions to bring awareness to safety issues resulting in fatalities on a Knoxville bridge project (that was given to the lowest bidder). IWJET and Jobs with Justice have been remarkably effective in their area over the years and COS is hoping this step will help to increase involvement of local communities of faith in these efforts.

Click on this link <http://www.etiwj.org/> to see the new website for Interfaith Worker Justice of East TN. Click on the various tabs to get a good look at all the recent activities of IWJ, along with several union allies.

Bennie Liggins, pastor of **Unity UCC in Montgomery, AL**, sent us an update and pictures of the church's Summer Feeding Program.

In the Gospel of John, chapter 21 and verse 17, we find these words: ¹⁷ *Jesus asked a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus had asked him three times if he loved him. So he told Jesus, "Lord, you know everything. You know I love you." Jesus replied, "Feed my sheep."*

The congregation at Unity could not decide what Christ meant by "feed my sheep." Did He mean feed them physically, spiritually, or intellectually? Since we could not say for certain we decided to do all three.

Thanks to the donations and hard work of some very generous people, we have been able to answer the call of Christ through two very special ministries:

THE SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM:

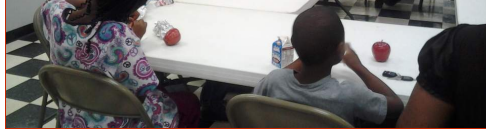
1. **Monday- Friday, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. We serve a free nutritious lunch to over thirty children and disabled people. As good as this sounds, we have a goal and the capacity to feed one hundred people a day.**

UNITY ACADEMY:

1. **This Saturday morning (9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) ministry provides free tutoring to children in grades one through nine. We also help those high school students who are having difficulty passing the Alabama High School exit exam and we feed each student breakfast and a snack. The need for this program has been manifested by our ministering to over 80 students each Saturday. The success of the program has caused us to close registration and begin a waiting list.**

The Lord has truly blessed this little part of His kingdom in Montgomery, and we continue to ask for your prayers, blessings, and support.





Work Camp on the Mountain

Pleasant Hill (TN) Community United Church of Christ partnering with Uplands Village, a continuum-care community and Neighbors Together hosted a work camp consisting of 12 youth and 3 adults from BEM Church, St. John's UCC, near Owensville, MO.

Neighbors Together, a grass-roots organization on the Cumberland Plateau, initiated the work camp for the purpose of preparing an old house loaned to Pleasant Hill CUCC by Uplands Village to be used as the Neighbors Together office and food pantry. The youth painted the food pantry room and basement at the house and helped move the food pantry, a job that would have taken the committee much longer.

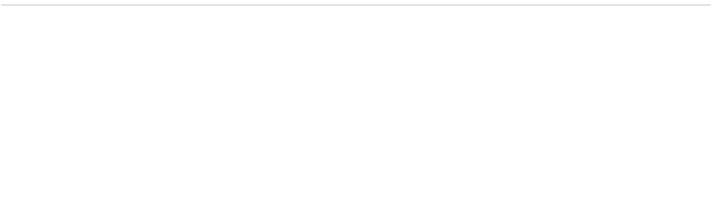
"PHCC has faithfully and generously supported Neighbors Together's food pantry efforts ever since its beginning in 2002 and was pleased to be a work camp partner," stated Pastor Tom Warren. The youth of PHCUCC were present during Bible School and worked each evening with the Bible School children helping with games and crafts. The GRAB Thrift Shop, a local mission of PHCUCC, provided yet another opportunity to experience life on the "mountain."

Dave Harsh, development director of Uplands Village, arranged for the youth to work with assisted living residents and around the grounds of the assisted living facility, Fletcher House. Tom Warren and Barb Everett included the youth in the Tuesday afternoon worship services at Wharton Homes, the nursing home facility of Uplands.

We feel that the partnering of Neighbors Together, Pleasant Hill CUCC, and Uplands Village provided an experience that will long be remembered by

Uplands village provided an experience that will long be remembered by those who participated. God was definitely still speaking (and acting) here in Pleasant Hill.

The work camp committee consisted of: Al and Jackie Dwenger, Jack and Fanny Seville, Ziggy Stampfl, Tom Warren, Dave Harsh, Mandy Adams, and Bob and Connie Waidmann.



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EVENTS CALENDAR

« < August 2012 > »

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1